

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A fiber optic tube cable having improved thermal stability and comprising an air blown fiber (ABF) tube within which one or more air blown optical fiber units can be installed, said air blown fiber (ABF) tube formed from a cross-linked polyolefin having a first coefficient of thermal expansion and comprising at least one filler material having a second coefficient of thermal expansion less than said first coefficient of thermal expansion; whereby said tube has a coefficient of thermal expansion less than said first coefficient of thermal expansion of said cross-linked polyolefin.

2. (Original) The tube according to claim 1 wherein said at least one filler material comprises a predetermined amount of an inorganic filler material selected from, but not limited to, the group comprising chopped glass fiber, glass spheres, mica, talc and CaCO_3 and mixtures thereof.

3. (Original) The tube according to claim 1 wherein said at least one filler material comprises a predetermined amount of a polymeric filler material, and wherein said filler material may be fibrous or spherical but is not limited to these morphologies.

4. (Original) The tube according to claim 1 wherein said cross-linked polyolefin comprises cross-linked high density polyethylene.

5. (Original) The tube according to claim 4 wherein the cross-linked density range is between 40% and 90% according to ASTM Standard D 2765-95, Method A.

6. (Original) The tube according to claim 2 wherein the chopped glass fiber content of said tube is not greater than 5.0% by mass.

7. (Currently amended) The tube according to claim 6 wherein the chopped glass fiber consists of E-glass with ~~a nominal diameter of 14 μ m~~ and a typical length less than 20 mm.

8. (Original) The tube according to claim 1 comprising a smooth outer layer of polyolefin or cross-linked polyolefin.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The tube according to claim 1 wherein said tube has a coefficient of thermal expansion value of less than 150 μ m/m°C over the temperature range of 20°C to -40°C.

12 - 36. (Canceled)